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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 25 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you in order to respond to the tendentious allegations and misleading information contained in the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations (document A/59/781-S/2005/250).

As mentioned in our earlier letters, the most recent of which, dated 7 March 2005, was circulated as document A/59/726-S/2005/143, Israel constantly resorts to inflating ephemeral incidents and depicting hypotheses that are borne out neither by logic nor by the facts.

The Syrian Arab Republic wishes to emphasize that the infiltration referred to in the Israeli letter was an isolated, individual incident devoid of further dimensions. Indeed, it is Syria that has respected international law and its commitments under the Disengagement Agreement signed in 1974, whereas Israel, which has occupied the Syrian Golan since 1967, has continued to practise State terrorism and committed numerous violations of the Disengagement Agreement. The most recent of these were its air strike against the Syrian village of Ain al-Sahib on 5 October 2003 and its deliberate killing of a Syrian soldier and wounding and kidnapping of another on 8 January 2003.

The occupied Syrian Golan is part of Syrian territory and a natural geographic extension of the Syrian motherland, and on both sides of it there live Syrian Arab nationals belonging to the same families. That being the situation, it is unavoidable that such incidents should occur. Similar incidents have occurred in the past, whereupon the Israeli authorities have turned over the nationals in question to the Syrian authorities. The latest incident, involving a Palestinian national, is a passing occurrence, especially in view of the fact that he was carrying an ordinary hunting rifle which could not be used to commit the act alleged in the Israeli letter.

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As for the allegation contained in that letter regarding the efforts being engaged in by Israel to renew the peace process, nothing could be further from the truth. Such claims are in conflict with the statements openly made by Israeli officials, in which they reject the resumption of the peace process and reaffirm their desire for continued control of the occupied Arab territories.

The Syrian Arab Republic renews its appeal to the international community to pay attention to Israeli colonialist and expansionist policies and the need to call a halt to those policies, which pose a threat to regional and world peace. Syria also reiterates its firm desire and strong will towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, founded on the United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference and the Arab peace initiative adopted at the Beirut Summit in 2002.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fayssal **Mekdad**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative